

# Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act

## Sponsored by Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Senator Sherrod Brown



The Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act promotes job creation by improving federal Farm Bill programs that support local and regional farm and food systems.

### **The legislation aims to:**

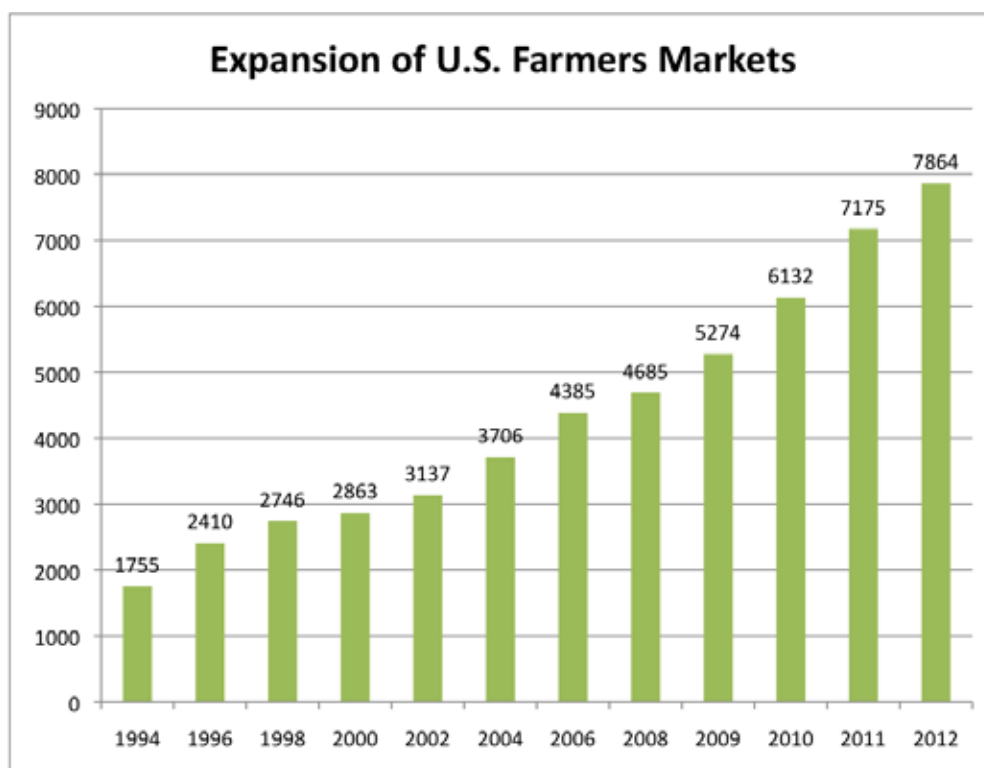
- Better meet the needs of farmers and ranchers engaged in local or regional agriculture
- Improve access for consumers to healthy, local food options
- Provide more secure funding for programs that support the local agricultural economy

### **Growth Worth Supporting: Local and Regional Food Systems**

Local and regional agriculture has experienced incredible growth in recent years. With \$5 billion in sales annually, it's becoming a major driver in the farm economy.

While in 1970 farmers markets were few and far between, there are now nearly 8,000 farmers markets around the United States. We are also witnessing the rapid growth of local food markets that have grown beyond direct marketing, and a renewal of mid-tier regional food system enterprises.

The Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act would help support and expand this growth to help it meet its full economic potential.



Source: USDA-AMS-Marketing Services Division, August 2012

**Fact sheets, updates, and resources at [www.pingree.house.gov/localfood](http://www.pingree.house.gov/localfood)**

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## Expands access to healthy foods for consumers

- Better access for SNAP participants
- Local food options for schools
- More resources for seniors



## Improves local and regional food system infrastructure

- Strengthens grant and loan programs
- Expands Farmers Market Promotion Program
- Food safety assistance and training



## Boosts income and opportunities for farmers and ranchers

- Better insurance for diversified and organic farms
- Strengthens value-added producer grants
- Stable funding of cost sharing for organic certification



## Enhances agriculture research and extension service

- Training and technical assistance for local food systems
- More data on local food production
- Studies what works in local and regional food systems



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